

**Q: Why do you feel that the ULI Hines Competition is a valuable experience for graduate students?**

*A: The importance of the ULI Hines Student Competition for graduate students is the nature of its interdisciplinary emphasis. This competition immerses a diverse group of graduate students with unique post-undergraduate backgrounds and skillsets that allow new ideas and the byproducts of these ideas to become tangible solutions to real-life issues needing resolution or mitigation. The program creates a multilayered synthesis between real estate market opportunities, their design-based solutions, and the complex yet exciting financial programs needed to allow these ideas to optimally work. It is also a fantastic way for graduate students to step out of their comfort zone and network with students/faculty within many school programs, allowing a larger network of cross-disciplinary opportunities to flourish within the Institute itself.*

**Q: What challenged you about this year's assignment?**

*A: In the beginning, we received backlash on our design ideas from critics and advisors. The challenge we had to face was whether or not we change our vision and program goals to cater to their interests. We stuck to our gut decision and couldn't be happier with the result. We went a completely different route in our design than your typical real estate development would have. We didn't want to produce a cookie-cutter development based on already saturated markets. We wanted to see something different, something that integrated the existing arts district to this new development in healthy and supportive ways. We challenged the status quo of current development practices to rethink the ways real estate can complement existing communities in resilient and lucrative ways. By instilling critical thought processes to these challenging concepts, we hybridized art with medicine to tie existing health and art districts of Miami together in unique ways.*

*The hardest challenge we faced throughout the competition was honing in on what ideas and programs we wanted to display and emphasize most in our end-product. There were so many strong elements associated with our vision and mission, so resolving the arrangement and organization of our design process around these elements was quite an achievement for our team.*

**Q: What do you feel you/your group accomplished as a result of participating in this competition?**

*A: We went into this competition knowing that we wanted to focus on a humanitarian design-based solution. Based on the processes we went through together, and the produced work made, we feel as though we accomplished our objective quite fluidly. Our end design complements and enhances the existing communities within the Miami area, while also thinking about the regional impacts associated with existing health industries.*